

A Meditation

In 2009, the late Francis Buxton, a parishioner and lay Benedictine, wrote a little booklet of meditations as part of his Lenten observance that year, which he shared with some of us.

In his preface, he wrote: 'After reading a passage of scripture slowly and prayerfully several times, I find that a few words, a phrase or sentence will stand out. This I regard as the Lord speaking to me for today. After considering the words and their relevance to my life or way of thinking, I make some reply. These sometimes take the form of poems in blank verse, like those that follow.

Until I am granted the gift of contemplation, this and prayer in other forms, is the total of my dialogue with the Lord.

If, as is your right, you do not agree with my responses, why not consider how you might have responded to the scrap of scripture – or, better still, choose one of your own.'

The following is an extract from that little booklet.

Getting Home

At home with the Lord: 2 Cor 5:8

Lord, hear us, in our body's home,
With our understanding clouded,
With suffering and tribulation,
With choking, world-pollution reek.

We long to be at home with you,
Where tears are only those of joy,
Where light and love are paramount,
Where we shall know you as you are.

Sustain our faith that good will win,
Support our trust when skies look dark,
Secure our hope that dawn will break,
Give us your hand and lead us home.

*From 30 Psalms for Lent, 2009
Francis Buxton.*

Next Issue

The next issue of the magazine will be published on the weekend of 24th-25th June 2023. We welcome interesting and original material for the forthcoming edition. The deadline for the next edition is 4th June



Christ is Risen!

Wishing everyone a very blessed and happy Easter.

~ Fr. Jay



Parish Magazine of
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Margaret Mary

The Shack

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... from humble beginnings

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The Shepherd's Corner

Lent is a season of longing. Like the sun waiting for the rain to stop, so is the human heart yearns the warmth of the Resurrection of Christ. This heightens the senses and so brings one's sacrifices and struggles to a different level in the pursuit of identity and belongingness to Christ.

These 40 days of our observance, makes our community closer to one another as we pause for a bit and reflect to the things that really matter in life. Our worship to God, our care and affection for our family, and concern for our friends, we know, are what motivate us in life.

However, we cannot disregard the fact that we live in a physical and practical world and so we still have to worry about our bills. This, too, matter, especially with the rising cost of living. Nonetheless, this narrative plays also another course when it comes to dependence to the grace and love of the Lord. That is true reliance in its purest form, that we have nobody to depend on, except Christ alone.

As the sacred images in the Church are covered, this reminds us of a life that is veiled. Peppered with silhouettes, all we could see are glimpses of a fuller picture that is yet to come, Christ's coming into His glory. This is our goal, that we participate in His glory as He shares his life with us in the very sacrifice of the Eucharist.

Finally, we've come this far and yet not so far. Too many things to accomplish as a community and the excitement goes on. This is the beauty of Christianity. We long for the sun to shine again while we enjoy the raindrops falling on our cheeks.

A look back at 2022

2022 was an eventful year for the parish and the diocese.

In February, the parish suffered the shock of Fr. Brendan's sudden illness, from which he is still recuperating. We welcomed Fr. Jay to the parish in early March and happily he was formally installed as our Parish Priest by Bishop Alan on 25th October 2022.

Two parish open meetings were held in May and October and other parish activities have included the introduction of Youth Chess, Tennis and Table Tennis, as well as the recommencement of the monthly SVP Coffee Morning on the first Wednesday and monthly Afternoon Tea on the second Monday.

Two very good scripture study courses also took place during the year, led by Rachel and Kevin Pugh.

Sadly, the parish UCM group is reluctantly being wound up due to insufficient membership numbers and held its last meeting in December. We are grateful to all the members for their valuable contribution to the life of the parish over many years.

Also in December, the diocese saw the retirement of Bishop Alan Hopes and the ordination of Bishop Peter Collins as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, before a congregation of up to 1,100 people including Cardinal Vincent Nichols, over 20 bishops, civic and ecumenical guests.



News and Views

Help us to make our new magazine as informative and interesting as possible by contributing news and views. We would welcome news from our parish organisations on their activities and plans. Or maybe you would like to submit a topical reflection or tell us about a personal experience or story. Or perhaps you write poetry and would like to share a poem with us. If so, please send us your offerings. We would love to hear from you. Send your item in the first instance by email to edsacredheart@gmail.com.

Congratulations!

Our congratulations go to George and Peggy Mealy who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 16th March. A very special occasion.



Parish Garden

A new parish gardening group is being established to meet every Thursday at 1145 after morning Mass and Adoration. The aim is to have a team of volunteers who can help keep the parish garden and grounds in good order and looking attractive. Whether you've green fingers or not, if you would like to help, please come along any Thursday. The more the merrier!



Time for a Cuppa!

Why not join us for afternoon tea between 2pm and 4pm on the second Monday of every Month? It's a great way to have a catch-up with, or to get to know and make new, friends! You can bring your knitting, or just pop in for a chat. We look forward to seeing you.



Calendar of Parish Events - Spring/Summer 2023

- **Chrism Mass, Tuesday, 4 April at 11.30** – St John's Cathedral, Norwich. Coach departs from Sacred Heart at 10.15, return at 13.00 from Cathedral. Refreshments served after Mass.
- **Easter Triduum**
 - **Maundy Thursday, 6 April at 1930:** Mass of the Lord's Supper *followed by the watching at the Altar of Repose*
 - **Good Friday, 7 April**
 - 1030 Children's Stations of the Cross
 - 1500 Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
 - **Holy Saturday, 8 April at 2000:** Easter Vigil Mass
 - **Easter Sunday, 9th April**
 - 0900 Mass
 - 1100 Mass (*Livestreamed*)
 - **1145 Children's Easter Egg Hunt** in the Parish Garden
- **Parish Open Forum** – Wednesday, 12th April at 1600.
- **First Holy Communions** – Sunday, 11th June at 1100 Mass.
- **Parish Patronal Feast** (Sacred Heart) - 16th June
- **Sacrament of Confirmation** – Monday, 26th June at 1800 Mass with Bishop Peter Collins.
- **Parish Stewardship Programme** – Commences on the weekend of 23rd / 24th September.
- **Dates to be confirmed:**
 - September - Altar Servers Bowling and Pizza
 - September – Parish BBQ
 - October – Parish Auction and Fund Raising
 - December - Christmas Party

Calendar of Diocesan Events - Spring/Summer 2023

- **Chrism Mass: Tuesday April 4** - 11.30am, St John's Cathedral, Norwich.
- **Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival: April 29 – 30** - Sacred Heart School, Swaffham.
- **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham: Monday May 1** - 12 noon to 4.30pm. One of the major annual events of the year in the life of the Diocese. National Shrine, Walsingham.
- **Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham: Tuesday May 30** - 12 noon at National Shrine, Walsingham.
- **Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Mass: Saturday June 3** - 11.30am, St John's Cathedral, Norwich. Mass for couples celebrating special wedding anniversaries.
- **Altar Servers Mass and BBQ: Saturday July 22** - 11.30am, St John's Cathedral, Norwich, followed by a barbeque.
- **World Youth Day: August 1 – 6** - Pope Francis will be joined by young people from across the world (including East Anglia) in Lisbon, Portugal.
- **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: August 18 – 25**
- **Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage: Sunday September 3** - 12 noon, National Shrine, Walsingham.